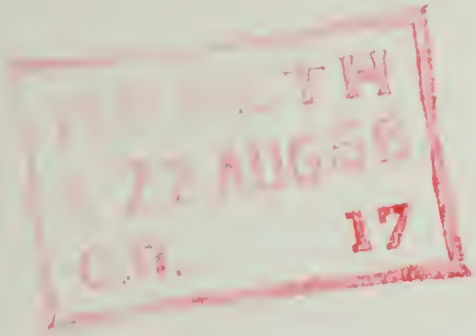


Library



1955

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk





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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A.B. GUILD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.B.

Waterworks Superintendent:

R.R. TYE



EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Aldiss and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The estimated mid-year population of East Dereham for 1955 was 6,650, an increase of 40 over that of the preceding year. There has been a regular increase in the population over the post war years (1946 estimated - 5,800).

VITAL STATISTICS.

109 live births, of which 4 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 65 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (16.39) was appreciably higher than last year (13.47) and the England and Wales rate was 15.0.

There was only 1 still birth this year, giving a still birth rate of 0.15 as against 0.60 last year, while the England and Wales rate was 0.35.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the National to the local fertility index, was again 1.01.

The number of deaths showed a marked decrease, 65 as against 85, and this gives a death rate of 9.78, a decrease of 3.08. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

The deaths comparability factor was again 0.81.

There were 3 deaths of infants under 1 year of age (2 under 4 weeks of age). This gives an infant mortality rate of 27.52 compared with the England and Wales rate of 24.9. The causes of death were (1) tentorial tear and bilateral hydronephrosis (2) intracranial haemorrhage (3) acute bronchiolitis.

Infectious diseases were responsible for two deaths (pneumonia).

Cancer accounted for 16 deaths, 5 less than in the previous year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

80 cases of infectious diseases were notified of which 61 were due to Whooping cough. The importance of this disease, and of immunisation against it, will be appreciated when it is noted that 4 cases occurred in infants under 1 year of age, 6 weeks, 9 weeks, 7 months and 7 months respectively.

Food Poisoning. This case was due to infection with salmonella typhimurium and it is probable that the infection was contracted in Norwich.

Dysentery. Sonne dysentery is beginning to take an important place in the community. This disease has become increasingly prevalent throughout the country in recent years and although only 11 cases were notified it is believed that this figure did not represent the true incidence of the disease.

Special attention to food hygiene is of the greatest importance in the prevention of this disease.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	1955	1954	1953	1952	Admitted to Hospital	Notification Rate per 1,000 Population.	
						E.D.U.D.C.	E & W
Scarlet fever	2	2	11	1		0.30	0.73
Measles	2	119	40	179		0.30	15.6
Whooping cough	61	36	49	8		9.17	1.7
Pneumonia	1	5	2	5			
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-			
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	1	-			
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	11	2			
Dysentery	11	4	-	2			
Puerperal pyrexia	2	3	-	1			
Poliomyelitis	-	1	2	1			0.14
Food poisoning	1	3	-	-			
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	1			
Total	80	173	117	200			

Disease	Age Group												Total	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping cough	4	2	3	12	10	29	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	61

														Total
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	11
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	4	2	4	13	11	34	3	3	4	-	1	1	-	80

Tuberculosis

During the year 6 cases were added to the register, of whom 2 were inward transfers. The comparative figures for the previous three years are:-

1954 - 5

1953 - 4

1952 - 8

The distribution of these 6 cases by age and sex is as under :-

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 - 25	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	1
35 - 45	1 (a)	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	2 (a)	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-
	2 (a)	3 (a)	-	1

(a) denotes one inward transfer.

The numbers remaining on the register were :-

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.54	14	14	28	5	8	13	41
31.12.55	14	15	29	2	7	9	38

No deaths were due to tuberculosis.

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1955 are given below with the data for East Dereham in brackets for purposes of comparison

Formal Notifications

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
153 (3)	0.41 (0.16)	36 (1)	0.095 (0.05)

The mortality figures for the same period were :-

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
24 (0)	0.06 (0)	8 (0)	0.02 (0)

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination were offered to school children aged 14 years and over at the following schools - Dereham Girls' High School, Dereham Boys and Girls Modern Secondary Schools and Litcham Area School.

The results are tabulated below:-

<u>Refusals.</u>		<u>Acceptances</u>			<u>Tuberculin Test</u>
		<u>Primary Tuberculin Test</u>		<u>Vaccinated</u>	<u>After Vaccination</u>
Girls		1	-		
H.S.	49	31	28	28	27
		(26 screened later).			
Girls					
M.S.	30	11	11	11	8
		(7 screened later).			
Boys					
M.S.	19	16	27	27	22
		(10 screened later).			
	<u>Refusals.</u>	<u>Acceptances</u>		<u>Vaccinated</u>	<u>Tuberculin Test</u>
		<u>Primary Tuberculin Test</u>			<u>after Vaccination</u>
Litcham	6	5	11	11	8
		(4 screened later.)			

The Chest Physician very kindly screened the positive reactors and in all cases the X-ray appearance was within normal limits.

Cancer of the Lung.

The relationship between smoking and lung cancer continued to receive much attention during the year.

Cancer is coming into greater prominence because of the continued progress in medicine and surgery and because of the increasing ageing of the population.

Over the country as a whole there is a gradual increase in male deaths from cancer of the respiratory system.

It would be unwise to draw any hard and fast inferences from the statistics of a small population such as I am dealing with in this report. Accordingly the statistics which I give below are for information only.

		Deaths							
		A		B					
Population		Total		Cancer		Respiratory		A	B/A
				M	F	M	F	%	%
1951	6,460	92		6	6				
				12		-		13.0	-

1952	6,473	62	4	7				
			11		-		17.7	-
1953	6,571	79	9	3	1	-		
			12			1	15.2	8.3
1954	6,610	85	8	13	3	1		
			21			4	24.7	19.0
1955	6,650	65	9	7	-	-		
			16			-	24.6	-

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General:-

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	5	12
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	6	12
Coronary disease, angina	6	3	9
Other heart disease	7	4	11
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	3	6
All other accidents	3	-	3
	37	28	65

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (estimated mid-1955)	6,650
Rateable Value	
Estimated product of a penny rate	

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General:-

EAST	DEREHAM	ENGLAND & WALES
1955	1954	1955

	Males	Females	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	51	54	105
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	54	55	109

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.39	13.47	15.0
--	-------	-------	------

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	0.15	0.60	0.35
--	------	------	------

DEATHS (All ages)

37	28	65	9.78	12.86	11.7
----	----	----	------	-------	------

INFANT DEATHS

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	2	1	3

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000

Live Births	27.52	44.94	24.9
-------------	-------	-------	------

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer.

	Under 1.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	66	10	1	-	3	36	13	129
Reinforcing	-	-	-	1	16	183	139	339
								<u>468</u>

Primary immunisations in the first two years of life are now mainly combined against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Records received in my office show that in the 10 years 1946-1955, 1040 children received complete primary injections against diphtheria while 1312 reinforcing injections were given. During the same period the number of births was 1100.

Two children were immunised against whooping cough alone.

VACCINATION

The number of vaccinations was approximately the same as last year.

	Under 1 year.	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over
Primary	46	-	3	2	1
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	1	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Fourteen bacteriological samples were taken from private water supplies in the district. The following summary gives the results:-

High Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
8	1	6

The unsatisfactory results concern two wells and one private bore hole. One of the wells is being replaced by a piped water supply and in the second case water is transported to the user. The last report on the bore hole stated the sample was highly satisfactory.

Total yearly consumption	61,967,000 gallons
Increase on previous year	3,785,500 "
Total yearly Domestic Water consumed	46,581,000 "
" " Industrial or Metered supplies	15,386,000 "
Average daily consumption, domestic and industrial	169,308 "
Average gallons per head per day.	24.2
" " used for industry per day	42,040
Total estimated population served with water	5,254
Number of houses supplied with town water	1,564
(a) direct to houses	1,264
(b) by means of standpipes	300

Number of samples taken from the town supply:-

Bacteriological	16.	Chemical	1.
-----------------	-----	----------	----

Results:- These samples were all "highly satisfactory." A copy of chemical analysis is attached.

EXTENSION TO MAINS AND WORK DONE.

1,100 yards of 3" water main have been installed at Yaxham Road, thus enabling 34 houses and bungalows in this area to be connected to the town supply instead of the original source which was from supply tank and bore. This water had a very high iron content in consequence of which numerous complaints were always forthcoming.

420 yards of 4" main has been added to the Moorgate Road housing site and during the coming year it is expected to link this extension into the Toftwood main, thus making a link main instead of a dead end as at present installed.

118 properties and houses have been connected to the town supply. This does not include 26 houses and bungalows in course of erection at Moorgate Road.

HEAD WORKS.

Three iron removal pressure filters were commissioned on 17th June 1955. These filters treat all water supplied to the town. After numerous flushings out of the mains the water is now free from all trace of iron deposits. No complaint has been received regarding discolouration of the water since these filters have been installed. The filters are designed to treat 12,000 gallons per hour and the peak demand during the week is 14,000 to 15,000 g.p.h. Additional space has been provided for an additional filter to be installed when a consumption of 16,000 g.p.h. could be filtered. This extension is expected to take place in 1957.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Stage 1 of the reconstruction scheme for extending and improving the disposal works was commenced towards the end of the year and is proceeding satisfactorily.

The defective portion of Commercial Road sewer has been relayed and also a short length from Littlefields to the Toftwood main which links the old town system with the new Toftwood sewer at a point higher up than heretofore thus allowing the Council to discontinue using approximately half a mile of old sewer which is known to be defective.

Test baiting of sewers show no evidence of rat infestation.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No pail closets were converted to the water borne system during the year. When the disposal works has been reconstructed no doubt the Council will consider a scheme to connect all such properties, excluding houses scheduled for demolition, to the sewer.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Domestic refuse is collected weekly in the built up area of the town and outlying districts are collected once every month.

A complaint of smell and fly nuisance was made by a householder living near the Hoe refuse tip. It is difficult to stop a nuisance of this nature within the area immediately surrounding a refuse tip but steps were taken to reduce it and the complainant was satisfied.

A small disused sandpit close to the town which had been used intermittently as a local dumping ground for many years had become both unsightly and a minor public health nuisance. The Council agreed all town refuse could be tipped there during the winter months providing it could be closed down during the warmer weather when the risk of fly nuisance would be greater. Tipping has already commenced and is progressing satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year:

<u>Discription</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>
Drainage	156	10
Factories, workshops & bakehouses	50	-
Slaughterhouses & butchers shops	300	-
Food shops	35	-
Cowsheds, dairies, etc.	8	-
Restaurants	24	-
Verminous and filthy premises	11	-
Housing	300	9
Nuisances	26	3
Infectious diseases	-	-
Rats and mice	41	-
Refuse collection	24	3
Nightsoil	6	-
Water supply	2	-

25 informal notices served during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

Temporary licences were granted to two caravans.

SMOKE NUISANCE.

No complaints were received of smoke nuisances during the year.

SMIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public baths in the district.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

No infestation of bed bugs was reported or discovered. Two cases of flea infestations were found and the premises were disinfested. Two lots of bedding were steam disinfested.

HOUSING SURVEY.

At the beginngin of the year the Council considered a general report on the housing situation in the district in relation to the accepted standard of fitness for human habitation. The report divides the houses into two categories -

clearance areas and possible clearance areas. The first category contained six clearance areas in which there was a total of 136 houses, and the second thirteen areas and 114 houses. The council's Public Health Committee inspected 211 of these houses and recommended to the Council that 161 should be demolished within the next five years and 34 within ten years. The recommendation was accepted by the Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has been informed.

Closing orders were made on thirteen houses during the year.

Nine applications for improvement grants were submitted, eight of which were approved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

Three dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Four dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The dairies were regularly inspected and have been found to be satisfactory.

The appropriate action was taken under part VII of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, in two samples of milk containing brucella abortus and tubercle bacillus collected by the County Milk Sampling Officer, on laboratory investigation.

Cases Remaining 1.1.55	New Cases reported.	Notices removed.	Cases Remaining 31.12.55.
Brucella abortus			
1	-	1	-
Tuberculosis			
1	-	1	-

FOOD CONDEMNED.

Thirty-three condemnation certificates were issued during the year covering:-

- 158 tins
- 212 lbs of cheese
- 292 lbs imported beef (affected with bone taint)
- 181½ lbs home killed beef (affected with bone taint)
- 68 lbs pork sausages
- 12 lbs pork chips
- 11 lbs beef sausages
- 6 lbs beef chips

MEAT INSPECTION.

There is one licenced slaughterhouse in the town and though few complaints were made of smell nuisance from it during the year it does exist to an intense

degree at certain times. A report on it is under consideration by the Council and it is hoped it may be possible to have it moved to more suitable premises.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	661	11	649	1032

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Inspected	661	11	649	1032

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some organ or part condemned	16	-	-	5
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with tuberculosis 2.42%	2.42%	-	-	.48 ⁷ / ₈

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	3	2
Carcasses in which some organ or part condemned	75	-	2	18
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	11.49%	18.8%	.77%	1.93%

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority. 5		20	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. 46	46	50	-	-
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Works Site Local Authority. 3	3	6	-	-
Total	54	76	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred		No of cases in which prosecutions instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
	2	2	-	1	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health again carried out the duties of Appointed Factory Doctor and 130 juveniles, of whom 53 were resident in Dereham, were examined for fitness for employment. In addition two employees were examined at fortnightly intervals as required under special regulations for individuals employed in dangerous trades (chromium plating).

HOUSING.

The number of houses erected in 1955 was

- 1) By the Council 66
- 2) By private enterprise 20

The number of houses built by the Council is - pre-war 144, post-war 508.

The number of applicants on the housing list at 31st December, 1955, was 304, 11 less than a year ago.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services under Part III.

Domestic Help Service.

1 part time and 33 occasional home helps were employed during the year, and 24 cases were assisted in East Dereham.

Mental Health - Administration.

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

18 patients were admitted to mental hospitals, 15 of these being voluntary, 1 certified and 2 under section 20.

Mental Defectives.

The following cases were visited and reported on periodically:-

Under statutory supervision - 7. (2 visited by P.S.W)
Under friendly supervision - 2
On licence - 1

Three children attend the fortnightly Occupation Centre at Beech House, Gressenhall, and one child receives training at home.

Old People's Clubs.

Two Old People's Clubs continue to function in the area with a combined membership of about 200.

Infant Welfare Centre.

This centre continues to be held twice a month and attendances have been satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No cases were dealt with under this Act.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant.

A.B. Guild.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD.

Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
Norwich.

Cert.No. 929 G - 2930/W.

1st February, 1956.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 18th January 1956 from East Dereham U.D.C.

Marked Public Supply, Tower Street Waterworks.

Appearance when received - Clear.

Nature of deposit - Nil

Colour - very faintly yellow. Odour - faintly earthy.

Reaction - alkaline pH 8.0 Taste - satisfactory.

Results of Chemical Analysis in parts per million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil	Hardness as CaCO ₃ :	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	251
Nitrate nitrogen	Nil	Carbonate (temporary)	232
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil	Non-carbonate (permanant)	19
Chlorine as chlorides	20	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	232
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. 27°C)	0.36	Free carbon diocide	3.5
		Total solids (at 180°C)	334
		Iron (total)	Nil
		Metals in solution	Nil

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and the analysis as a whole is very satisfactory. The treatment adopted for removal of iron has been successful, iron being absent from the sample, and the free carbonic acid has also been partly removed so that the reaction is well on the alkaline side of neutrality. This water would, therefore, not be expected to have any solvent action on metals. The hardness has apparently also been reduced somewhat by treatment, the total hardness approximating to 180 Clark, nearly all of which is temporary. The clarity and taste of the water are both satisfactory: it had a faint earthy odour, but this was too slight to need further comment. In our opinion this water is very suitable for drinking and for all the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) Lincolne Sutton and Wood.



